

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A swimming flipper comprising:
a blade and a footwear structure removably coupled with said blade, said footwear structure including a sole having first and second lateral sides, a first flap attached to said first lateral side at a first side of said first flap, and a second flap attached to said second lateral side at a first side of said second flap, said flaps of a conformable material, wherein each flap is adapted to attach to and detach from the other flap and to conform about a dorsal portion of a user's foot when attached to the other flap.
2. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said first and second flaps attach to and detach from each other at said dorsal portion.
3. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said first and second flaps are in a cross-over relationship with respect to the other flap when attached.
4. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein when attached, said flaps are in covering relation with respect to said dorsal portion of said user's foot.
5. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein a second end of each flap opposes said first end of each flap.

6. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein the first flap is attached at a top side of said sole.

7. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said first flap has a length less than a length of said first lateral side and said second flap has a length less than a length of said second lateral side.

8. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said first flap has a length greater than half the length of said first lateral side and said second flap has a length greater than half the length of said second lateral side.

9. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said first and second flaps are entirely unattachable from each other.

10. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said first and second flaps each include means for attaching to said other flap.

11. The swimming flipper of claim 10 wherein said means comprise a hook and loop fastener.

12. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said flaps have a zig-zag perimeter including a cutout.

13. The swimming flipper of claim 12 wherein when attached, said cutout of said zig-zag perimeter of said first flap is covered by said second flap and wherein said cutout of said zig-zag perimeter of said second flap is filled in by said first flap.

14. The swimming flipper of claim 12 wherein said zig-zags are attached to one another.

15. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said flap is comprised of different materials.

16. The swimming flipper of claim 15 wherein said different materials include rubber and neoprene, and wherein a lower surface of said flap is neoprene and an upper surface of said flap is rubber.

17. The swimming flipper of claim 16 wherein said different materials further comprise cloth and said cloth covers said neoprene.

18. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said footwear structure further includes a heel.

19. The swimming flipper of claim 18 wherein said heel is comprised of different materials.

20. The swimming flipper of claim 19 wherein said different materials include neoprene and rubber and wherein an outer surface of said heel is rubber and an inner surface of said heel is neoprene.

21. The swimming flipper of claim 20 wherein said different materials further comprise cloth and said cloth covers said neoprene.

22. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said sole is comprised of different materials.

23. The swimming flipper of claim 22 wherein said different materials include neoprene and rubber and wherein a lower surface of said sole is rubber and an upper surface of said sole is neoprene.

24. The swimming flipper of claim 23 wherein said different materials further comprises cloth and said cloth covers said neoprene.

25. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein an outer surface of said footwear structure includes projections.

26. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said blade includes a rear recess into which said sole is insertable.

27. The swimming flipper of claim 26 wherein said rear recess is expandable and contractable upon insertion and removal of said footwear structure.

28. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said sole is attachable to said blade.

29. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said blade includes a front locking means to attach said footwear structure to said blade.

30. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said blade includes a locking housing at a front portion of said blade and said footwear structure includes a front projection cooperating with said locking housing, attaching said footwear structure to said blade.

31. The swimming flipper of claim 1 further comprising a pair of straps attached to either side of said blade and attachable to each other.

32. The swimming flipper of claim 31 wherein a hook and loop fastener is attached to said pair of straps.

33. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said blade is comprised of a flexible and relatively rigid material.

34. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said blade is comprised of plastic.

35. The swimming flipper of claim 1 wherein said blade includes a frontwardly extending outwardly flaring portion which is less rigid than an intermediate portion and a rear portion of said blade.

36. The swimming flipper of claim 1 further comprising a loop attached to said blade.

37. The swimming flipper of claim 36 further comprising a strap threaded through said loop.

38. The swimming flipper of claim 37 wherein said strap includes attachment means.

39. A swimming flipper comprising: /
a blade of and a footwear structure, wherein the blade and the footwear structure are constituted by two distinct elements which can be separated from and connected to each other and which are provided with disengageable coupling means, said footwear structure including a sole having first and second lateral sides, a first flap attached to said first lateral side and a second flap attached to said second lateral side, said first and second flaps attachable to and detachable from each other and wrappable about a dorsal portion of a user's foot.

40. A swimming flipper comprising: /

a blade disengagingly coupled with a footwear structure, said footwear structure including a pair of flaps and a sole having a top surface, said flaps moveable between a position in which said flaps are attached to each other and a position in which said flaps are unattached from each other, wherein in said unattached position, each of said flaps is moveable to reveal a substantial portion of said top surface of said sole.